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Congress of the United States House of Representatives

February 13, 2009

The Honorable Michael J. Kussman
Under Secretary for Health
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20420

Dear Dr. Kussman,

I remain concerned about the recent developments at the Tennessee Valley Healthcare System regarding the discovery of the use of an improper valve in their endoscopic equipment. I understand the VA is contacting over 6,000 veterans about their possible exposure to bacteria following a colonoscopy at the Alvin York campus and has offered to provide an exam and blood test.

As soon as the information is available, please provide me a report on the number of veterans who were contacted, how many of them responded by scheduling an exam and blood test, and the number of those tested who were believed to have contracted a disease as a result of the procedure. In addition, if the letter was returned due to an incorrect address, I would like to know how that veteran might be notified.

I appreciate your work on behalf of our veterans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Bart", with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

BART GORDON
Member of Congress

BJG/ sg